Fort Detrick Environmental Restoration Project at Area B

Environmental restoration at Fort Detrick's Area B has entered a new phase of excavation. At one section of Area B known as B-11, near the corner of Kemp Lane and Shookstown Road, we are preparing to remove the contents of old landfills and contaminated soil around them.

The temporary structure, seen from Montevue Lane, will control dust and emissions from the digging.

Sequence of Events

We want to keep you informed about the progress of the project and about the extra steps in the safety program we are taking to protect public health. There are six steps to the project:

Step 1. Build the containment structure. This is complete.

Step 2. Determine the exact location of the buried contaminants. We have a good idea where the contaminants are buried, but we need the exact location. Using a backhoe inside the containment structure we will begin digging a good distance – about 10 feet – from where we think the contaminants are. We will gradually dig toward the burial sites, and stop when we encounter readings from air quality monitors and/or metal detectors, or encounter previously disturbed soil. We will mark that location, backfill the hole we created and repeat the process until we have identified the exact location of each trench. This will begin in late March and will take about 3 weeks.

Step 3. Freeze the soil beneath the contaminants. The containment structure will limit our access to locations where we will install the piping, so we'll use a massive crane to lift the structure, in two pieces, from its current location. We will then insert pipes underneath the buried contaminants. This will begin in mid-April, and it will take several weeks for the soil to freeze. The soil freezing operation will operate continuously until the project is complete.

Step 4. We will replace the containment structure. During the soil freezing process, we will move equipment into the structure, and set up the on-site chemical laboratory.

Step 5. After the soil has reached 20^{o}F we will begin digging up the buried contamination. This should begin in mid-June and take less than 90 days to complete. Intact bottles and jars will be pulled from the waste and analyzed on-site. Broken glass, metal, and contaminated soil will be put in specially designed dumpsters and taken to a licensed hazardous waste incinerator.

Step 6. After we have excavated all the soil and contaminants down to the frozen soil, we will fill the holes with clean soil and re-seed the field.

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Health and Safety

Protecting the health and safety of the public and the workers on site is our first priority in this project. We have taken a number of innovative steps to ensure a comprehensive health and safety program.

Containment Structure

The purpose of the large structure in Area B is to contain the dust and fumes that may result from the digging. All digging will be done inside the structure with all entryways sealed.

Air Filtration System

All air leaving the containment structure will be filtered for dust, then will pass through an activated carbon system that will remove all organic chemicals.

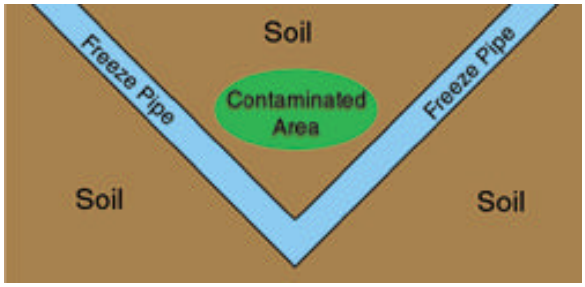
Air Suppression Systems

We will use two systems to contain vapors at the digging site. The first sprays a fine mist over the digging site. The mist attaches itself to dust and vapors, and once attached, they float back to the ground. The second is a foam suppression system, much like used in aircraft rescue actions. This foam will totally encase the contaminants.

Air Quality Monitoring

There will be a number of high-tech air quality monitors both inside the containment structure and at strategic locations outside the structure. If any outdoor monitor shows an indication of air contamination, work will stop and air suppression systems will be used to contain the emissions.

Soil Freezing



While the containment structure and suppression systems contain the air emissions, the soil freezing system will contain the contamination below ground

Truck Routes

To reduce the risk of accidents on narrow roads, there will be no truck traffic from this project on Shookstown Road or Kemp Lane. All trucks will travel within the Area B boundary to Montevue Lane, to Rosemont Avenue, to Route 15 and I-70 to a licensed hazardous waste incinerator. Licensed hazardous waste carriers will transport waste in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations.

Emergency Response

We have coordinated this project with every emergency response agency in the area, to include Fort Detrick's Police and Fire Departments, Frederick City and Frederick County Police, Maryland State Police, Frederick County Fire Department and Emergency Response Office, and Frederick Memorial Hospital. With the safety precautions we've implemented, we don't think we'll need to contact these agencies. But we are all ready if we do.

Additional Information

If you would like more information about the project please visit the Fort Detrick web site at www.armymedicine.army.mil/detrick/rab/, or call the Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office at 301-619-2018.